

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending and have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 into the following groups:

- Group I: Claims 1-8, drawn to isolated polynucleotides;
- Group II: Claims 9-10, drawn to isolated polypeptides;
- Group III: Claim 11, drawn to methods of making polypeptides;
- Group IV: Claims 12-15, drawn to isolated antibodies;
- Group V: Claim 16, drawn to methods of detecting polypeptide using antibody or bacteriophage;
- Group VI: Claims 17-21, drawn to methods of identifying binding partners of a polypeptide; and
- Group VII: Claim 22, drawn to anti-sense oligonucleotides, ribozymes and siRNA.

The Examiner requests that one of the groups of claims be elected for examination. Although the Restriction Requirement is traversed for the reasons set forth below, Applicants elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-8, for examination.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed with respect to the division of the claims of Group I from the claims of Group III. While the claims of Groups I and III are patentably distinct, it is submitted that a thorough search of the claims of either group will likely reveal art relevant to the examination of the claims of the other group. In particular, the method claim of Group III uses the nucleic acid of claim 4 in Group I. Thus, a search of the claims of Group I will, of necessity, reveal information relevant to the examination of the claims of Group III and, therefore, division of the claims into these groups would result in duplicative searches. Therefore, examination of the claims of Group I with the claims of Group III together should not be an undue burden on the Examiner.

Applicants elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-8, for examination. Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be reconsidered and that the claims of Group I be examined with the claims of Group II. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if there are any questions.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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